



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

May 27, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS NEFOP Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten  
Acting Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Scup Sampling Project

Scientists at the Woods Hole Laboratory have requested whole scup samples from various locations between Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras. Ideally we are looking for 20-30 whole samples ranging from any size from each statistical area. The information required for each scup is already recorded on your haul log so this should not require any additional data collection.

Each whole scup should be frozen and packaged in a plastic bag accompanied with a tyvek tag that lists the tripid, haul number, date, species, statistical area, fishery and length. If multiple scup are taken from the same haul, each scup should still be placed in a separate plastic bag, however, the only information required to be filled on each tyvek tag is the length. All scup (each individually bagged) obtained from the same haul can then be placed in one larger plastic bag with a cover tyvek tag that lists the tripid, haul number, date, species, statistical area, fishery and length. All should be sent to Falmouth Technology Park the same as you do with other fish samples.

Depending on the fishery you are observing and the statistical area you are in, scale samples may be required from scup (Table 1 of the Northeast Biological Sampling Manual). While this study is going on, your normal sampling priorities should continue, meaning the scale samples should be collected, however if possible, you should try to collect those scup as whole samples as well. In other words, the whole scup samples can also have scale samples obtained from them.

Once this study is complete, meaning that about 20-30 whole scup samples are obtained from each statistical area, an e-mail will be sent out that states the study is complete.

Thanks in advance for your help in this study. If you have any questions, please contact KB McArdle at [Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov](mailto:Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov) or 508-495-2377.



Image courtesy of South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
<http://www.safmc.net/FishIDandReqs/FishGallery/Scup/tabid/3>